

Barking attack stifled by non-stop pressure

TONY AND TEAMWORK SWING PENDULUM BACK FOR WANDERERS

Wycombe Wanderers 3,
Barking 0

TEAMWORK at its best and Tony Horseman at his most devastating rushed the title pendulum back Wycombe Wanderers' way at Loakes Park on Wednesday evening.

Barking, once serious rivals for the Isthmian League crown, were stifled — their 93-goal-hungry attack included—from first to final whistle.

Everything clicked just when it had to for the Blues. Constantly pressing deep into the visitors' territory, they dictated the tempo and style of play, growing in confidence with each minute.

EMPHASIS

And Horseman emphasised the point(s) via two similar goals—one good, the other undoubtedly one of his greatest all season—in the second half, when not even lashing rain could drown Wycombe's spirit.

A mystery right-leg injury—"a stabbing pain when I kick with my instep"—made Ian Rundle a spectator, and left Keith Blunt in the number two shirt, Peter Suddaby wearing seven but playing superbly from midfield, and Keith Stephenson coming in to partner John Delaney.

It was Keith Searle who showed first to menace Barking 'keeper, Billy Hadlow. Twice in the opening minutes he went near to finishing off copybook movements developed fluidly through all three Wycombe lines.

And, indeed, the first and only goal before half-time resulted from a penalty after Searle had been blatantly scythed down by full back Cooper. Delaney cannoned in his 18th-minute shot from the spot.

Suddaby seemed particularly eager to double the score quickly, twice sending the ball at Hadlow, who did well to put the second effort over the bar.

Then Suddaby — the man wanted by the professionals—headed down for Horseman to tee up a fine shot which again Barking's 'keeper re-directed for a corner.

Wycombe ripped into the second half with equal if not added power. Horseman took up the running on the lookout

for any openings, and twice in two minutes he prised an adequate, if suspect, Barking defence apart, before Delaney shot mere inches high after a Suddaby-tapped free kick.

Nineteen minutes into the new period though, the visitors broke. Two defenders saw Horseman round them and slip the ball into goal to make it 2-0 and the League points practically certain.

Barking's short revival gave Johnny Maskell a moment to hog some glory. But when Wilsonham hobbled off, surprisingly never to be replaced by a substitute, they were left with ten men and little chance for the last 20 minutes.

Roared on by the Loakes Park equivalent of the 'Kop', Wanderers continued to move as smoothly and purposefully

as at any time in their long, arduous Isthmian campaign.

And the night was capped six minutes from time as Horseman persistently held possession past the Barking back row, beating two defenders inside the area before delivering the 'coup de grace' with a low flying shot into the bottom left corner of the net.

Even goalkeeper Maskell dashed to the centre-line to applaud a great goal. Yet three minutes later, the applause was even louder for Peter Suddaby as he trotted off the pitch and Vince Faulkner substituted.

M.W.

Wycombe W.: J. Maskell; K. Blunt, C. Gale; K. Stephenson, J. Delaney, J. Lailey; P. Suddaby (sub.: V. Faulkner, 87th), B. Baker, K. Searle, A. Horseman, J. Hutchinson.

Closing victory?

VICTORY in their closing fixture at Kingston tomorrow would ensure at least an equal footing at the Isthmian League summit for Wycombe Wanderers.

Enfield beat Dulwich Hamlet 2-1 on Wednesday evening but, should Wycombe win, will need maximum points from their two remaining games.

The table after Wednesday looked like this:

	P.	Pts.
Wycombe ...	37	60
Enfield	36	58

Wycombe's team to meet Kingstonian is to be picked from Wednesday evening's team, plus Rundle and Anthony.

Barking: Hadlow; Cooper, Butcher; Boyton, Jones, Ford; Page, Fairchild, Bishop, Wilsonham (inj.), James. Sub.: Gray (not used).

This was a great game, Wycombe played forceful, fluent football. The midfield was a treat to watch. Maskell. Played well, took high crosses well. Blunt. Played very well, solid. Never commits himself. Gale. Played well. Stephenson. Played well.